

# Empowering Futures: Advancing Girl Child Education in India

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**Abstract:** *The main purpose of this research paper is to understand the factors that affect the girl child education. Improvement in the education and literacy skills of the girls are primarily based upon factors such as socio – economic, socio – cultural, educational levels of the parents and distance from school. These factors affect the participation of girls in schools and in enhancing their educational skills and abilities.*

**Keywords:** Education, Literacy, Empowerment, Violence, Poverty.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Education is an important step in a child's overall development, all over the world. Education lays the foundation for a bright future. **Educating the girl child** refers to every aspect of education that aims at developing the skill and knowledge of girls and women. This includes the general education at colleges, schools, professional education, technical and vocational educations, health education, etc. The education of the women encompasses both non-literary and literary education. The education of the girl child has the ability of bringing socio-economic changes. Democratic countries including India have a constitution that guarantees equal rights to both women and men. Primary education is a key right. When a girl is protected through her rights, the society is assured of its sustainability. Realizing how important education is, both government and non-government have taken various projects to strengthen girl's child education. Realizing the importance of women education, the government, and many non-government organizations took many projects to spread women education. Literacy programs are being taken in favor of women.

### 1.1 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To study the concept of education.
- To understand the importance of girl child education.

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study is based entirely on secondary data. Secondary data is collected from various books, journals, internet, etc.

### IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING THE GIRL CHILD IN INDIA

**Economic development and prosperity:** **Educating the girl child** will help in empowering them to come forward and contribute towards the prosperity and development of the country

**Economic empowerment:** Helpless condition can't be changed for the men if the women are backward and depend on men. Economic independence and empowerment will come when we educate the girl child.

**Improved life:** **Educating of the girl child** helps in the improvement of a good life. The identity of the girl won't be lost. She has the ability to read and learn about her own rights. She won't be trodden down about her rights. There will be a general improvement on her life.

**Improved health:** Educated girls bring an awareness of the important of hygiene and health. Through education, they can lead a healthy life style. The women that are educated can carter for their children better.

**Dignity and honor:** Educated women are now looked upon with dignity and honor. They become a source of inspiration for millions of young girls who make them their role-models.

**Choice to choose a profession of her choice:** educated girls can prove to be successful in their different professions. When the girl child have the opportunity to be educated, it gives her the better chance to become a successful cook, engineer, doctor or the choice of profession she wants.

### **THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN NUMEROUS STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE GIRLS' EDUCATION IN INDIA**

Beti bachao, beti padhao (Save daughters, educate daughters) was conceived in 2015, which addresses the issue of the declining Child Sex Ratio (number of females per thousand males aged zero to six) across the country. It is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Human Resources. This strategy works to stop female foeticide, increase the number of girls attending schools, decrease school dropouts, implement rules regarding the right to education and increase the construction of toilets for girls.

Jharkhand has taken a big initiative toward female education upliftment. The Jharkhand School of Education has decided on distributing free textbooks, uniforms and notebooks to all girl students from grades nine through 12.

Gurgaon, located in the Indian state of Haryana, aims to provide free education to girls in grades nine through 12.

The Uttar Pradesh government plans to provide a monetary incentive of 30,000 rupees to female students who have an outstanding performance in intermediate or equivalent state examinations.

UNICEF is also working with the Indian government to provide quality education for all girls. As a result, Bihar has now made girls' education a priority. A new program has been initiated in Bihar which includes education for daughters and thousands of girls are now attending school.

### **BARRIERS TO GIRLS' EDUCATION**

**The cost of education** – Though education should be free, there are a lot of costs associated with sending children to school. The cost of uniforms, textbooks or bus fare can be too much to bear for a family living in poverty. Too often, parents choose to keep their girls at home and send the boys to school instead.

**Distance to school** – In many parts of the developing world, the nearest primary school to a particular community might be a 4 or 5 hour long walk away. On top of that, girls may face dangers or violence on the long way to school, so many parents opt to keep their daughters at home and out of harm's way.

**Violence at school** – Once arriving to school, girls may face various forms of violence at the hands of teachers, peers and other people in the school environment. If parents find out school isn't safe for their daughters, they may remove them from school.

**Gender norms** – Typically, girls are asked to fetch the water, take care of their younger siblings and to help their mothers cook and clean. Due to this, girls may not have the opportunity to attend school because their contributions to the household are valued more than their personal education.

**Poverty** – In many parts of the developing world, children's health is a big concern, especially if they're facing poverty. If there's not enough food or sufficient clean water to keep girls nourished and healthy, they may not be well enough to attend school.

**Early marriage and pregnancy** – When girls are forced to marry young, they are often pulled out of school at a very critical age in their development. The transition from primary to secondary education is key for girls to gain the life skills they need to escape the cycle of poverty. Yet, this is often the same time that many girls leave school due to early marriages or pregnancy. Girls who become pregnant are often discouraged from attending school because of the stigma surrounding them.

### **VARIOUS FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROPER EDUCATION OF GIRL CHILD IN OUR SOCIETY**

Indifference in attitudes and practices against girl child including their health and well being.

Illiterate parents and guardians have little awareness of the importance of education, particularly for girl children.

Financial constraints of various types interfere in the education.

Various domestic responsibilities along with the necessity to earn money from 13 – 14 years of age.

Peer pressure from non – school going friends who discourage the pursuit of education.  
Lack of aspiration as the only professional options are the traditional ones which don't require education.  
Discrimination, or the perception of discrimination, by higher caste peers and teachers at school.

#### **WHAT STEPS CAN BE TAKEN SO THAT A GIRL CHILD GET EDUCATION?**

Parents and the community need to be fully convinced of the importance of education and motivated to send their children, particularly their daughters to school.

Certain amendments are needed to be made in the Education Policies like 'India's Central Board of Secondary Education, which has already made a provision in its Examination Bye-Laws that girl candidates.

School staff needs to work closely with the target communities and applied a flexible approach as a tool to achieve the primary objectives.

Providing women with literacy and vocational training for income – generation.

Encouraging women to assume an increasing role in food security and income – generation. Through extensive training, women will be able to plant crops, market their products and preserve surplus foods.

#### **III. CONCLUSION**

Education has a major role to play in social, economic and political aspects of human development. It is also through the use of education that the environment has been transformed into a better place to live in. there have been formulation measures, policies and rules to enhance the living conditions of the individual. There are certain factors that affect the education of girls, especially in rural areas and the ones belonging to deprived and socio – economically backward sections of the society.

There are number of factors such as economic, social, educational and cultural that lead to barriers within the course of acquisition of education. In some cases, these factors impose major effects, due to which girls do not obtain any opportunities to acquire education. It is essential to formulate measures that lead to promotion of education amongst girl.

#### **REFERENCES**

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